



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 3, 2002

H.R. 3955 **Caribbean National Forest Wilderness Act of 2002**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on March 20, 2002

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3955 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 3955 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 3955 would designate as wilderness approximately 10,000 acres of lands within the Caribbean National Forest/ Luquillo Experimental Forest, located in Puerto Rico. Based on information from the Forest Service, CBO estimates that the agency's costs to manage lands within the proposed wilderness would increase by about \$35,000 a year, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. According to the agency, the affected lands currently generate no receipts, and the agency does not expect the lands to generate significant receipts over the next 10 years; hence, we estimate that designating those lands as wilderness would not affect offsetting receipts.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.